

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS JIDDA 2487

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI PRESS ON ARAFAT-FAHD INTERVIEW

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION OF AN ARTICLE IN MARCH 30
ISSUE OF SAUDI DAILY AL-MADINA ON THE MARCH 28 TALK BETWEEN
PLO CHIEF YASSIR ARAFAT AND CROWN PRINCE FAHD.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

THE INTERVIEW OF YASSIR ARAFAT, PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN, WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD TOOK PLACE DURING EXTREMELY
DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE PLO.

THE INTERVIEW COVERED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SOUTH LEBANON,
GENEGVA PEACE CONFERENCE, JORDAN'S CALL TO YASSIR ARAFAT,
SYRIA'S STANDS REGARDING THE RESISTANCE, INTERPRETATION OF
THE CAIRO AGREEMENT, AMERICA'S STAND REGARDING THE PALESTINIAN
PROBLEM, AND THE PALESTINIAN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

ARAFAT'S INTERVIEW WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD LASTED ONE

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FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF AND ABU HISHAM, FATH REPRESENTATIVE TO
THE KINGDOM, TOLD AL-MADINA THAT ARAFAT REPORTED TO THE
CROWN PRINCE THE RESULT OF THE RECENT SESSION OF THE
PALESTINIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AT CAIRO PLUS THE RESISTANCE
PLANS IN THE FUTURE. ABU HISHAM ALSO SAID ARAFAT DISCUSSED
SOUTH LEBANON WHERE THE RESISTANCE HAS BEEN FIGHTING THE
ZIONIST ENEMY FOR THE LAST FIVE MONTHS UNDER GREAT SECRECY.

THE INTERVIEW ALSO COVERED IN A SPECIAL WAY THE ARAB CONFLICTS WHICH WEAKEN THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE, AND ARAFAT REFERRED NAMELY TO THE CONFLICT BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA, BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ AND SYRIA'S STANDS REGARDING THE RESISTANCE. ARAFAT ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE ROLE WHICH CAN BE PLAYED BY THE KINGDOM TO RESTORE ARAB SOLIDARITY AND COLLABORATION.

THE KINGDOM HAS PROVED ITS WISDOM, DIPLOMATIC CAPABILITY AT THE SUMMIT AT RIYADH IF ARAB SOLIDARITY IS RESTORED, THE RESISTANCE CAN THEN ACHIEVE THE ARAB'S ASPIRATIONS. ARAFAT EXPLAINED TO THE CROWN PRINCE THE SYRIAN STAND REGARDING THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND THE MATTER OF WITHDRAWING ARMS FROM THE MILITIAS.

ARAFAT SAID THE RESISTANCE HAS DISCUSSED ALL OF ITS DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES WITH THE CROWN PRINCE. IT HAS RECEIVED HELP AND KINDNESS FROM THE SAUDI LEADERSHIP FROM THE BEGINNING. REGARDING HIS VISIT TO JORDAN, ARAFAT SAID HE WILL FIRST SEND A DELEGATION TO JORDAN TO FIND OUT WHAT JORDAN WILL GIVE TO THE RESISTANCE. AFTER THAT ARAFAT WILL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO VISIT AMMAN. THIS MEANS THERE IS SOME PRESSURE EXERTED BY THE PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF THAT VISIT ESPECIALLY BECAUSE THERE IS SOME KIND OF COORDINATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND JORDAN. IN ADDITION, AN INVITATION WAS SENT TO PIERRE JUMAYYIL, LEADER OF THE PHALANGISTS, TO VISIT JORDAN. ALL THESE FACTS NEED A GREAT DEAL OF THINKING AND NO ONE FULLY KNOWS THE TRUE SITUATION. THE CROWN PRINCE HAS RENEWED TO ARAFAT THE KINGDOM'S
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FINANCIAL, POLITICAL AND MORAL SUPPORT OF THE RESISTANCE. IT WILL EXERT ALL EFFORTS WHICH SUPPORT EXISTENCE AND CONTINUATION OF THE RESISTANCE.
END TEXT
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